

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-29 remain pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over as allegedly being unpatentable over the Related Art as illustrated in FIGs. 1-3 of the present disclosure in view of Johnson, U.S. patent 2,443,826. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Independent 1 recites a combination of elements including "a stamper configured to define a surface of a light guide; and a core material portion fixed to said stamper by a fixing structure, wherein said fixing structure comprises at least one fastening member, wherein said at least one fastening member extends through said core material portion into said stamper."

Independent 5 recites a combination of steps including "defining a molding chamber, including defining at least one surface of the molding chamber with a stamper configured to define a surface of a light guide, wherein the stamper is a stamper electrotype fixedly mounted on a core material portion using at least one fastening member; molding a molding material in the molding chamber to form a light guide having a surface thereof defined by the stamper; and forming at least one fastener hole through the core material portion and extending into the stamper electrotype."

Applicants respectfully submit that the above combinations of elements and steps as set forth in independent claims 1 and 5 are not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

The combination of the Related Art and Johnson fails to teach or suggest “a core material portion fixed to said stamper by a fixing structure, wherein said fixing structure comprises at least one fastening member, wherein said at least one fastening member extends through said core material into said stamper” as recited in claim 1 and “the stamper is a stamper electrotype fixedly mounted on a core material portion using at least one fastening member” and “forming at least one fastener hole through the core material portion and extending into the stamper electrotype” as recited in claim 5. In the claimed invention, the fastening member is used to fix the core material portion and the stamper in relation to each other. Both the Related Art and Johnson fails to teach or suggest this claimed feature.

In particular, the Examiner has correctly acknowledged that the Related Art fails to even disclose a fastening member. Therefore, the Related Art cannot teach or suggest the fastening member being used to fix the core material portion to the stamper.

Johnson also fails to cure the deficiency of the Related Art. The Examiner alleged that the die portions 12, 13 are equivalent to the stamper as recited and the platen member 16 is equivalent to the core material portion as recited. The Examiner further alleged that the guide rods 19, 20 are equivalent to the fastening member as recited. However, Johnson discloses that the die portions 12, 13 are slidably mounted in sockets 14, 15 in the fixed platen 16. The back of the die portions 12, 13 are in contact with compression springs 17, 18. *See Johnson, Column 2, lines 8-16.* Since the die portions 12 and 13 are slideable within the platen 16, the dies cannot be

fixed to the platen 16, which is contrary to the feature of claim 1 as recited above. Applicants also note the opposing guides 21, 22 within the movable plate 25 are also slid able. *See Johnson, Column 3, lines 4-11.* It is clear that neither the Related Art nor Johnson teaches or suggests the feature of the core material portion fixed to the stamper by a fixing structure, wherein the fixing structure comprises at least one fastening member, and wherein the fastening member extends through the core material portion into the stamper as recited in claims 1 and 5.

Accordingly, neither the Related Art nor Johnson individually or in combination teaches or suggests the claimed features of independent claims 1 and 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims (at least due to their dependency) clearly define over the teachings of the Related Art and Johnson.

In the alternative, the dependent claims are also distinguishable on their own merit. For example, claim 4 recites that the stamper is between 6 and 12 millimeters thick. *See also claim 8.* The Examiner recognized that the Related Art only specifies the stampers being between 0.1 and 0.4 millimeters thick. Then, the Examiner merely concluded that increasing the thickness would be obvious.

The Examiner is simply disregarding the explicit teachings of the Related Art. As stated in page 4 of the specification, which describes the conventional method of manufacturing the stamper, “the stamper 32 has a thickness of about 0.1 to 0.4 mm because it is difficult to make a large plating thickness.” One of ordinary skill, based on this information, would be motivated to refrain from increasing the thickness of the stamper. Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s allegation, the problem of the Related Art does render increasing the stamper thickness as non-obvious.

In addition, the Examiner stated that the recognition of the problems of the Related Art as pointed out by the Applicants may prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to explore different methods. This statement is erroneous. If the Examiner's statement is taken to its logical conclusion, then every invention counted will be obvious since the problems recognized by the inventors would prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the invention, and therefore would be unpatentable. Clearly, this cannot be.

As another example, claim 13 recites that a movable molding plate holds the movable core and the integral molding device. *See also claim 15.* In contrast, as illustrated in Figure 3 of the disclosure illustrating the conventional art, the core 34 and the stamper 32 are held within the stationary molding plate 42. Thus, the Related Art is in direct contrast to this feature.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

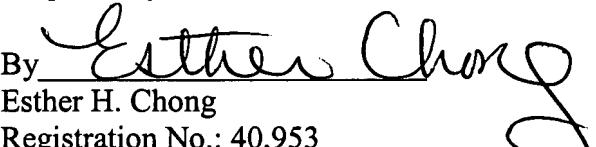
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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